



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Committee Bill No. 553

LCO No. 4802

04802SB00553PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING INPATIENT ADMISSIONS FOR CHILDREN
WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) Each licensed hospital
2 shall report daily to the Office of Health Care Access and to the
3 Department of Children and Families statistical information regarding
4 any child with behavioral health problems in such hospital's care who
5 is awaiting discharge from such hospital's emergency room.

6 (b) Each licensed hospital providing in-patient psychiatric treatment
7 for children, including emergency, crisis stabilization and treatment
8 beds, shall provide a daily list of available beds to the Office of Health
9 Care Access and to the Department of Children and Families. Said
10 agencies shall develop a system in cooperation with the Connecticut
11 Hospital Association, to expedite placements of children awaiting
12 discharge from emergency rooms to in-patient beds or community-
13 based treatment facilities or services. Such system shall require
14 equitable distribution of placements.

15 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) A procedure to ensure rapid

16 managed care approval of admissions to facilities when beds are
 17 identified shall be established by the Department of Children and
 18 Families and the Department of Social Services. Such procedure shall
 19 include provisions for expedited review of denials and prompt
 20 payment of retroactive approvals.

21 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) The Department of Children
 22 and Families shall, within available appropriations, make emergency
 23 mobile psychiatric services available on a continuous basis in order to
 24 divert children with behavioral health problems from emergency
 25 rooms to in-patient beds or community-based treatment facilities or
 26 services.

27 Sec. 4. (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) The Commissioner of Children
 28 and Families shall establish a committee to examine whether licensed
 29 hospital psychiatric in-patient bed capacity for children in this state is
 30 sufficient and what steps, if any, are necessary for its expansion.

31 (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

32 (1) The Commissioners of Social Services and Health Care Access, or
 33 the commissioners' designees;

34 (2) The state Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee; and

35 (3) Representatives of private children's hospitals and mental health
 36 advocacy groups for children.

37 (c) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Children
 38 and Families shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
 39 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the committee's findings and
 40 recommendations to the General Assembly.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section

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Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement a system to track children in need of inpatient behavioral health services who are awaiting discharge from hospital emergency rooms in order to avoid extended or weekend emergency room stays.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.

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